



Handy Hint: Cut out these notes and tape them to your bottle

Cellar Notes

June 2020

Prestige Red - Under \$50

RED - 2017 Duckhorn Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley, CA \$49.00 - This iconic producer's blend of 87% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Merlot, 0.5% Cabernet Franc, and 0.5% Petit Verdot begins with a gorgeous nose of boysenberry, cherry, strawberry, cedar, sage, and licorice. Lush and lively, this Cabernet captures the rich diversity of Napa Valley. On the palate, the alluring fruit flavors are underscored by bright acidity, firm polished tannins, and notes of fig, licorice, and cinnamon that linger on the well-structured finish. This follows on the heels of the ***Wine & Spirits 93-Point-rated*** 2016 vintage referred to as, "Exciting, distinctive; a wine that transcends simple typicity to its region or variety; a vivid, singular expression of place." This would match nicely with beef short ribs and other braised beef dishes. Enjoy today - 2030.

Collector Series - Under \$30

RED - 2018 Oberon Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley - \$29.95 - The Mondavi family has been changing the face of Napa wine for more than 100 years and this latest generation is no different. From vineyards spread from Rutherford to Capell and everywhere in between, the French oak aging regimen and just a touch of Syrah bring out the ripe-sweet brambly blackberries, roasted coffee, tobacco and an immediate likeability. Keep this through 2025 if possible, but it drinks well now with meaty menus. Enjoy today - 2025.

WHITE - 2018 Bruno Giacosa Arneis, Piedmont, Italy - \$29.95 - Bruno Giacosa was one of two producers in Piedmont credited with saving Arneis by bottling the wine commercially in the late 1960s. The wine presents a complex nose of white florals, jasmine, honeycomb, and orange citrus. The palate goes on with impressions that range from marzipan, honeysuckle and preserved lemon, with a defining minerality that brings the fruit through the long finish. It will complement oysters, halibut, or Meyer lemon chicken. Enjoy today - 2024. ***94pts James Suckling*** - "This is a longtime favorite, due to its purity of fruit and freshness, showing green-papaya, lime, lemon and green-apple character. Medium body. Crisp acidity. No wood. Steely and fruity at the end. Drink now." ***91pts Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*** - "The 2018 Roero Arneis is a fragrant and linear white wine with plenty of spicy lemon, tangerine and crushed stone aromas... (offering) tangy flavors and the wine's precisely linear quality. However, this wine is set to flesh out and gain in volume."

Classic Series - Under \$20

RED - 2017 Tasca d'Almerita 'Ghiaia Nera', Sicily, Italy - \$19.95 - (*Ghiaia Nera = 'black gravel'*) From the volcanic soils of Sicily's Mount Etna comes this 100% Nerello Mascalese, a new grape discovery for us at VINO! Showing wild berry and pie cherry aromas laced with woody nuances, flavors open to rose hip tea and lively red currant. Pair with roast chicken thighs or grilled mussels. Enjoy today - 2024. ***91pts Wine Advocate*** - "A pure expression of Nerello Mascalese... this bright, mid-weight wine is redolent of wild cherry, blue flower and volcanic ash. ...easy-drinking and food-friendly...this wine awards you one of the best values you'll find in Sicily."

WHITE - 2018 Il Palagio Bianco "Roxanne", Tuscany, Italy - \$19.95 - The totally renovated 65 acre sixteenth-century Villa Il Palagio estate, the private home of Sting and his wife Trudie Styler, lies amid the rolling hills of the Tuscan countryside south of Florence. Their "Roxanne" wines are a tribute to one of Sting's earliest and most famous songs. This 100% Vermentino offers flavors of green apple and lime, heightened by refreshing acidity, good richness, and a floral perfume carrying it well into Asian and light seafood cuisines. Enjoy today - 2023. ***91pts James Suckling*** - "A pale-colored vermentino that shows pithy lemons, green apples and chamomile. Medium-bodied with bright acidity and lively stone fruit. Fruity on the finish, but shows some complexity and weight."

Award Series - Under \$15

RED - 2017 High Heaven Red Blend, Columbia Valley, WA - \$14.95 - This 60% Syrah/40% Merlot blend is a show-off easy-drinker crafted by new Italian investors in our state! Showing dark blackberry, charred black pepper with bramble berries and vanilla on the low tannin finish, you'll find this perfect for casual entertaining alongside fire-grilled picnic fare. Easy, layered and delicious! Enjoy today - 2023.

WHITE - 2018 Planeta Bianco "Il Segreto", Sicily, Italy - \$14.95 - Principally produced from indigenous Grecanico grapes, it gains personality and style with the addition of 30% Chardonnay, 10% Viognier, & 10% Fiano. It delivers a youthful citrus and flowery effect, balanced by lively Mediterranean hints of peach, papaya and chamomile. We love it cold by itself on the patio, but it also enhances light shellfish or fresh salads like a light spritz of citrus. Enjoy today - 2022.

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